National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), NIH

NIH/NIAID – Nordic Regional Research Networking Meeting

Guidelines To New Investigator And Pre-Application Preparation

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Overview

- What new investigators should know
  - NIH definition of "new" investigator
  - Program and ICs foster new investigators
  - What NIH looks for in the application
  - Eligibility for foreign investigators
- Knowing NIH staff and their roles
- Developing a strategy toward successful application
- Writing and submitting an application

A "New" Investigator

- who has never been a PI on a PHS-supported research project other than a small grant (R03), Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15), exploratory/developmental grant (R21), or K series career awards except K02 and K04.

Programs Fostering New Investigators

- Pathway to independence award http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-133.html#SectionI

- New investigators program http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/institute_center_practices.htm

Examples Of Current NIH Institute And Center Practices To Foster New Investigator Independence

- **Fogarty International Center (FIC)**
  FIC offers the Global Health Research Initiative Program for New Foreign Investigators (GRIP) that concentrates on establishing research capacity for new investigators in their home countries.

- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**
  NIAID encourages new investigators to self-identify and expects less preliminary data from new investigator applications. Further, new investigator status can help individuals qualify to be funded through selective pay or via an R56-Bridge award. In addition, NIAID also provides tools for new investigators such as the NIAID Advice for New Investigators website:
  http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/plan/plan_i1.htm

Supports To A "New" Investigator

- Reviewers look for potential- not expect a long track record of publications and research or advanced job standing. But they will look closely at academic and research background.

- Develop mechanisms

- Selective pay

What NIH Looks For In The Application

- Innovative

- Best and unique scientific research to be appeared in written proposal

- Means to accomplish the work including the expertise, resources, equipment, personnel, time

- Compliance with NIH's requirements

Foreign Investigators And Funding Opportunities

- Talents, innovative, unique expertise or resources

- Eligible funding and mechanisms

- Prime funding

- Collaboration

Closer Looks To PAs, RFAs, RFPs

- PA http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-109.html

- RFA http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-06-006.html

  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AI-06-009.html

- RFP http://www.niaid.nih.gov/contract/rfps.htm

NIH Staff And Their Roles

- **SRA - Scientific review administrator**
  - Responsible for peer review of your application
- **Program Official - Scientist (Ph.D. or MD)**
  - Responsible for directing and evaluating research program
- **GMO - Grant management Officer**
  - Responsible for the overall administration of your grant
- **GM Specialist - Grant management specialist**
  - Agent of the GMO
  - Actually administer your grant
  - Work closely with program official

Strategy Development Toward Successful Application

- Stay abreast to funding related information
  - Subscribe to Federal Grant Notification Service

    http://grants.gov/search/subscribeAll.do
  - Subscribe to NIH Guide LISTSERV
    http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/listserv.htm
  - Subscribe to NIAID funding news and email alerts
    http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/newsletters/default_subscribe.htm
  - Routinely check for RFPs and amendments at FedBizOpps

    http://www.fedbizopps.gov/

Strategy Development Toward Successful Application (Cont'd)

- Check what other projects in your field being funded in CRISP database http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/
- Know grant funding timeline http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/charts/timeline_funding.htm
- Develop a novel idea/brainstorm ideas with colleagues and mentors
- Develop solid hypothesis

Strategy Development Toward Successful Application (Cont'd)

- Know the eligible funding and features of mechanisms you are going to apply or see if your idea matches the funding institute initiatives
- Talk with the program officers
- Find well established investigator to be a collaborator
- Determine your strength and weakness
- Show your potential on your application
- Give yourself plenty of time to write application

Show Your Potential On The Application

- Available resources

- Institutional support

- Independence (e.g. 1st or last author on publications)

- Leadership

- If known, identify the strengths and weaknesses of proposed research methods

- Collaborate - expertise and resources that enhance your research plan (e.g. mentor or collaborator who is well known).

Advice About Collaboration

- Where to find collaborators
  - Scientific meetings
  - University seminars
  - Publications
- How to initiate the collaboration
  - Direct contact – conversation
  - Write a letter
  - Networking
- Collaboration related issues – to avoid conflicts
  - Authorships
  - Responsibilities
  - Intellectual property

Helpful Resources

- NIH grants and funding opportunities
  http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/

- Information about extramural research
  http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm

- Information about all NIH Institutes and Centers
  http://www.nih.gov/icd/

- NIAID Key Contacts
  http://www3.niaid.nih.gov/about/findingpeople/

- All about grants tutorials
  http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/default.htm

- NIAID, International grants and contracts
  http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/int/default.htm

- Grant funding decision flow chart
  http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/charts/flowchart_funding.htm

Make It Happen

Good Luck

Submitting the application

http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/write/write_u1.htm

Writing an application

http://www.niaid.nih.gov/ncn/grants/write/index.htm

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